

PROCEEDINGS
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TWO NEW GEOGRAPHIC RACES OF BIRDS FROM
CENTRAL AMERICA.

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The following descriptions of hitherto unrecognized races of birds from Guatemala and Honduras have been prepared during work on collections found in the United States National Museum.

Family CERTHIIDAE.

Certhia familiaris nubigena, subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Certhia familiaris alticola* G. S. Miller² but definitely darker above; the darker color predominating on upper back, dark markings blacker; brownish markings on upper back and scapular region deeper, more chestnut; averaging a little dark on the breast and abdomen.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum No. 349,708, male, from Desconsuelo, elevation 10,200 feet, Depto. Totonicapán, November 24, 1936, A. Wetmore, original number 9442. Crown, hindneck, and central area of extreme upper back black, the crown feathers with narrow streaks of pale cream-buff; superciliary streak cream-buff, broken slightly in front of eye, but extended forward to nostrils; many markings of cream-buff on sides of upper neck, connecting with superciliary; loreal region and space behind and below eye dull black, with many spottings of pale cream-buff, back with feathers cinnamon-brown, varying toward russet, with central and distal markings of pale olive-buff, and indistinct edgings of black; rump and upper tail-coverts russet; upper wing coverts sooty black; one or two spots of verona brown on outer lesser wing coverts, with larger spots of dull white on inner lesser coverts; greater coverts tipped with dull white; scapulars black, edged, lined and tipped with white; exposed portion of primaries and secondaries sooty black anteriorly, fuscous-black distally with an irregular spot of white extending across outer webs of primaries near center to and including the eighth, on inner primaries extending across both webs; a similar, broader spot across center of secondaries, being light

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² *Certhia familiaris alticola* G. S. Miller, Auk, 1895, p. 186 (State of Vera Cruz, Mexico).

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buff externally and dull white internally; primaries edged narrowly with pale olive-buff, becoming white distally, tipped lightly with dull white; secondaries with distal edgings of olive-buff with a slight wash of russet, tipped with white; rectrices fuscous-black, outer one edged narrowly with dull white, others with deep olive-buff, which becomes olive-buff distally; throat white; breast, sides and abdomen smoke gray, merging through pale smoke gray to dull white on upper breast; flanks dull tawny; under tail-coverts cinnamon-buff; under wing-coverts pure white, with a small spot of dull black on edge of wing at base of tenth primary. Maxilla and tip of mandible black; base of mandible olive-buff; tarsus, toes and claws fuscous (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (4 specimens), wing 66.2–67.2 (66.8), tail 56.4–63.3 (59.9), culmen from base 15.5–16.7 (16.0), tarsus 15.0–16.0 (15.5) mm.

Females (2 specimens), wing 64.0, tail 58.8–60.0 (59.4), culmen from base 14.3–16.0 (15.1), tarsus 15.3–15.8 (15.5) mm.

Type, male, wing 66.2, tail 60.6, culmen from base 15.9, tarsus 15.6 mm.

Range.—Higher mountains of western Guatemala (specimens seen from Sierra Santa Elena, Desconsuelo, Hacienda Chancol, and Volcán de Fuego).

Remarks.—With a series of seven birds available, including five that I collected personally in 1936, it is easily evident that the creeper of the high forests of western Guatemala is distinct from *C. f. alticola* of southern Mexico. A skin from San Cristobal, Chiapas shows a slight tendency toward the southern bird, while one from Hacienda Chancol 25 miles northeast of Huehuetenango is not quite as dark as skins from Desconsuelo, Sierra Santa Elena, and Volcán de Fuego but is definitely *nubigena*.

Family COMPSOTHTYPIIDAE.

Basileuterus belli subobscurus, subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Basileuterus belli scitulus* but definitely darker, grayer, less greenish above; duller on the sides of the neck.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 348,141, male, collected at Cantoral, Honduras, January 23, 1936. Crown and side of head between hazel and chestnut-brown; a broad superciliary stripe extending from base of bill along entire side of head lemon chrome; forehead and a streak on either side of crown bordering the superciliary black, this and the superciliary extending down the back of the head beyond the chestnut-brown; side of head including area entirely around eye between hazel and chestnut-brown, this color extending over the loreal region, where it is mixed distinctly with black; hind-neck, scapulars, and back, dull olive-green; rump and upper tail coverts, slightly brighter, near dark citrine; wing coverts dull olive-green; remiges fuscous with an edging of dark citrine on the inner primaries and secondaries, and a very light margin of citrine on the outer primaries; rectrices fuscous, margined with dark citrine; throat and breast between lemon yellow and lemon chrome with the sides of the neck and body washed with dull citrine; flanks yellowish citrine; lower abdomen and under tail coverts strontian yellow; under wing coverts dull citrine with a mixture of yellowish citrine on the bend of the wing. Bill dull black; tarsus and toes buffy brown (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Male (type), wing 60.1, tail 53.0, culmen from base 12.2, tarsus 12.7 mm.

Female, wing 58.5, tail 54.3, culmen from base 12.0, tarsus 20.7 mm.

Range.—Known from Cantoral, Honduras.

Remarks.—So far as I am aware this is the first record of the present species for Honduras, and it is only natural that the two specimens seen should differ from birds from Guatemala since similar differences are found in various other kinds of birds. The new race is represented by a female in addition to the type, taken at the type locality on January 25. The duller coloration is easily evident in both specimens.